

**Amendment to the Specification**

[0037] The plate 11 comprises a rigid, ~~non-perforated~~, non-ceramic facing defining a first level of hard armor protection in the composite SAPI. The rigid plate 11 may incorporate any of the above-mentioned high-performance, low dpf fibers combined with a number of individual non-ceramic elements, such as S-2 glass fiber, carbon fiber, silicone-carbide, and graphite, arranged in either woven layers, non-woven unidirectional layers, or knit layers, or three-dimensionally knit or woven structures. The resulting composite is either flat or molded to any desired rigid form. Although plate thickness may be varied to suit the specific SAPI need, the preferred structural arrangement ranges from 0.080-inches to 0.40-inches in thickness.